DC
SIMONE · BYRNE · NELSON · STUCKER
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OCT 05
ACTION
COMICS
SUPERMAN SAVE US!
SUPERMAN SAVE US!
SUPERMAN!
SAVE US! SUPERMAN!
SUPERMAN!
Camelot Scans
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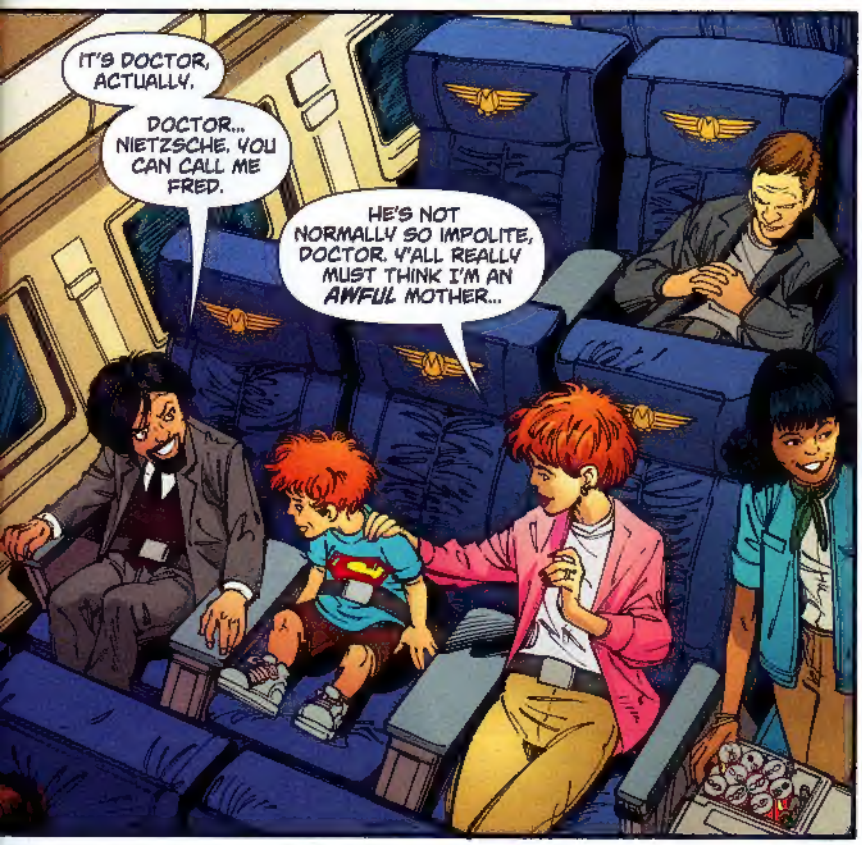
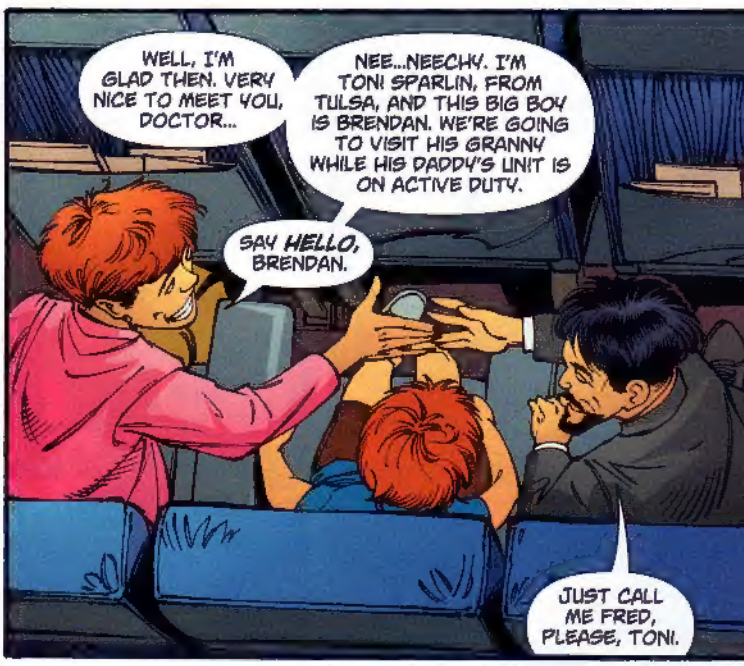
I'M SO SORRY, SIR.
THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING, MISTER...?

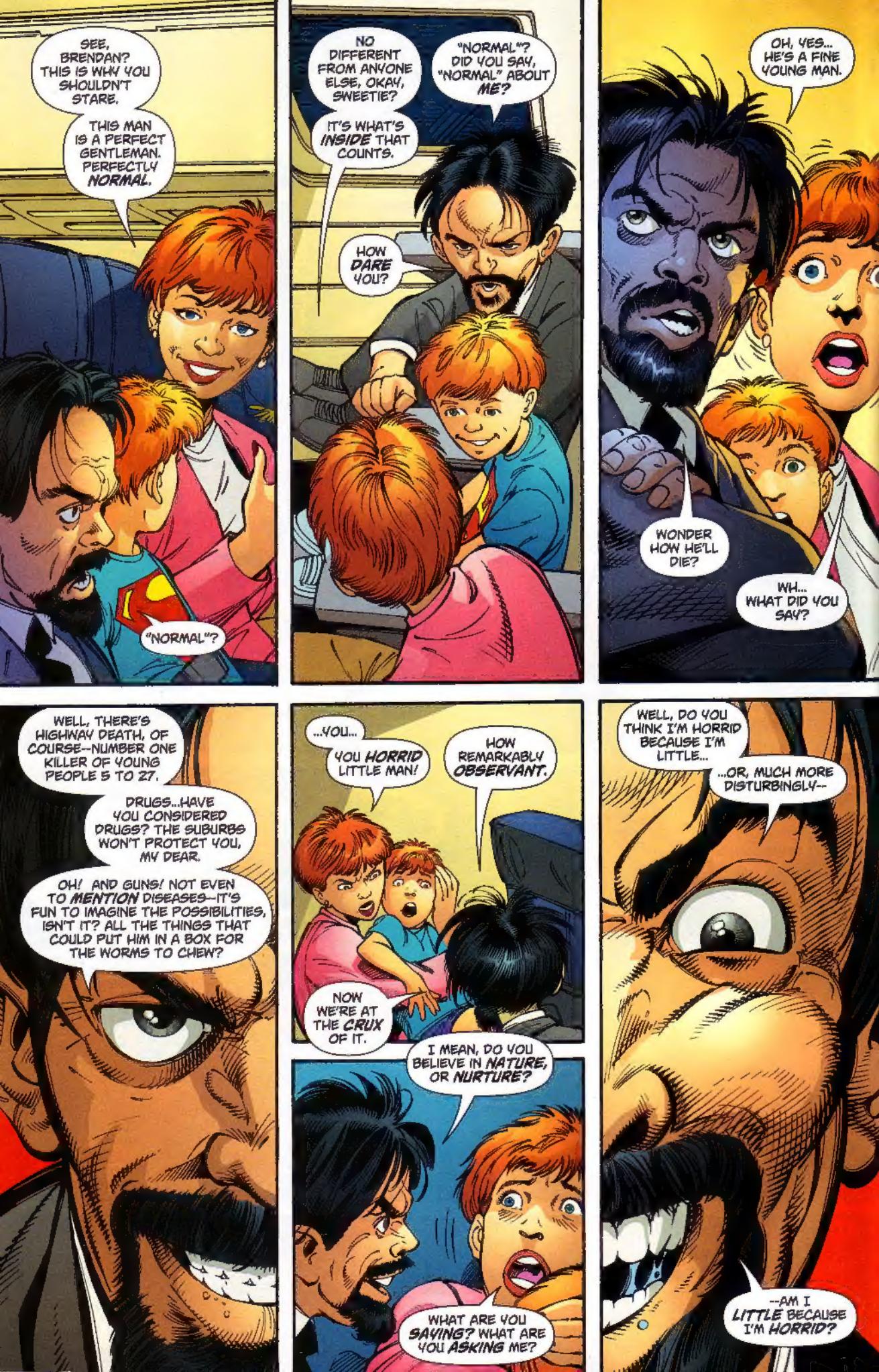

IT'S DOCTOR, ACTUALLY.
DOCTOR... NIETZSCHE. YOU CAN CALL ME FRED.
HE'S NOT NORMALLY SO IMPOLITE, DOCTOR. Y'ALL REALLY MUST THINK I'M AN AWFUL MOTHER...

NO, NO.
HE'S JUST CURIOUS.

I'LL BE HONEST...MOST KIDS, THEY WON'T LOOK ME IN THE EYE.
IT'S REFRESHING.


WELL, I'M GLAD THEN. VERY NICE TO MEET YOU, DOCTOR...
NEE...NEECHY. I'M TONI SPARLIN, FROM TULSA, AND THIS BIG BOY IS BRENDAN. WE'RE GOING TO VISIT HIS GRANNY WHILE HIS DADDY'S UNIT IS ON ACTIVE DUTY.
SAY HELLO, BRENDAN.
JUST CALL ME FRED, PLEASE, TONI.

I WONDER...
I FIND BOTH OF YOU DELIGHTFUL.
MAY I--WOULD THE TWO OF YOU ALLOW ME TO BUY YOU BREAKFAST IN METROPOLIS, WHEN WE LAND?
WHY, THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU, DOCTOR!


SEE, BRENDAN? THIS IS WHY YOU SHOULDN'T STARE.
THIS MAN IS A PERFECT GENTLEMAN. PERFECTLY NORMAL.
"NORMAL"?
NO DIFFERENT FROM ANYONE ELSE, OKAY, SWEETIE?
IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS.
"NORMAL"? DID YOU SAY, "NORMAL" ABOUT ME?
HOW DARE YOU?
OH, YES... HE'S A FINE YOUNG MAN.
WONDER HOW HE'LL DIE?
WH... WHAT DID YOU SAY?
WELL, THERE'S HIGHWAY DEATH, OF COURSE--NUMBER ONE KILLER OF YOUNG PEOPLE 5 TO 27.
DRUGS...HAVE YOU CONSIDERED DRUGS? THE SUBURBS WON'T PROTECT YOU, MY DEAR.
OH! AND GUNS! NOT EVEN TO MENTION DISEASES--IT'S FUN TO IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES, ISN'T IT? ALL THE THINGS THAT COULD PUT HIM IN A BOX FOR THE WORMS TO CHEW?
...YOU... YOU HORRID LITTLE MAN!
HOW REMARKABLY OBSERVANT.
NOW WE'RE AT THE CRUX OF IT.
I MEAN, DO YOU BELIEVE IN NATURE, OR NURTURE?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME?
WELL, DO YOU THINK I'M HORRID BECAUSE I'M LITTLE...
...OR, MUCH MORE DISTURBINGLY--
--AM I LITTLE BECAUSE I'M HORRID?

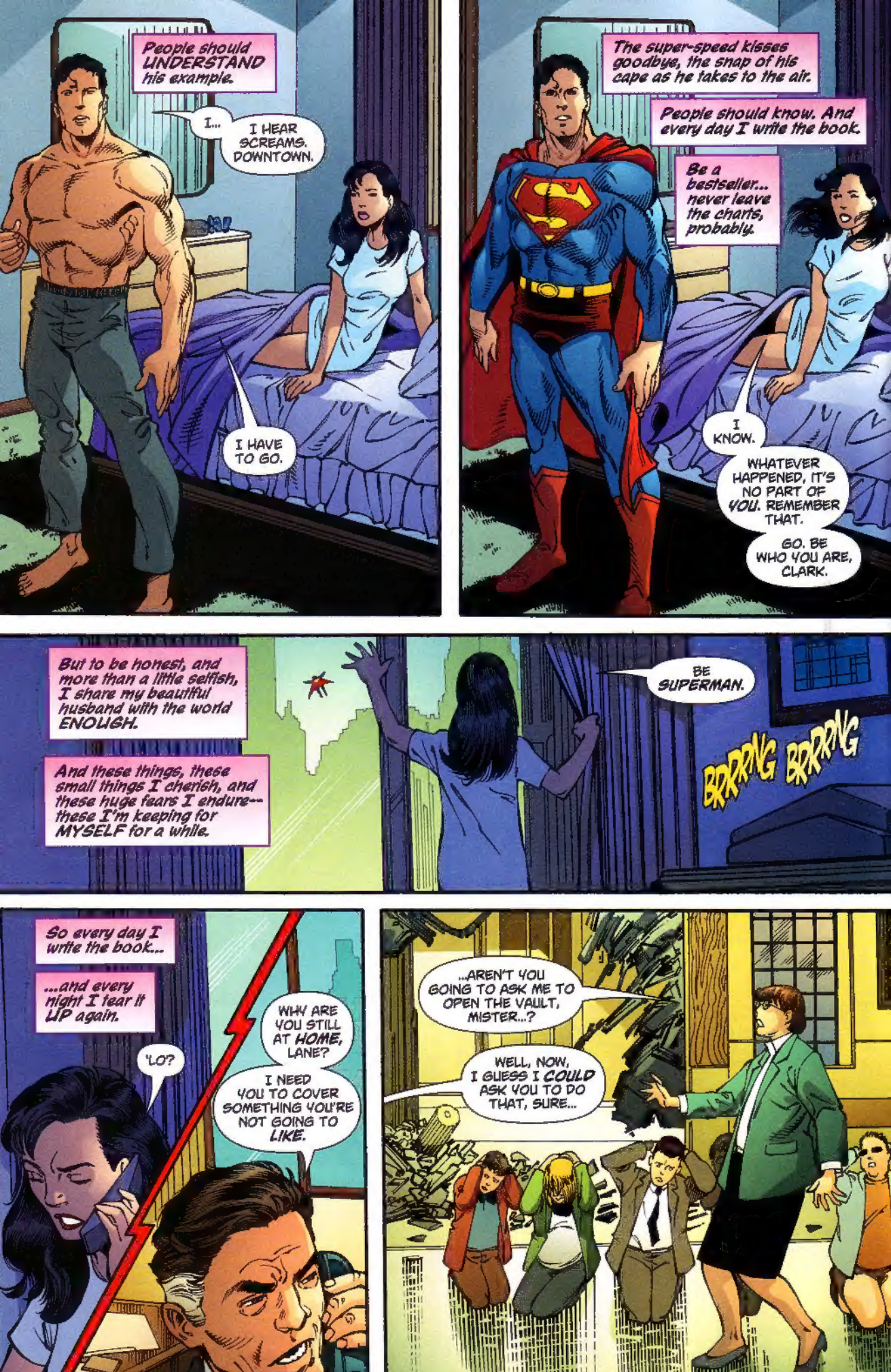
WAAAAAAAAAAH!
STEWARDESS... STEWARDESS! I NEED TO...WE NEED TO CHANGE SEATS!
I BELIEVE THEY LIKE TO BE CALLED FLIGHT ATTENDANTS, TONI.
YOU KNOW, I ALMOST CONSIDERED LETTING THIS PLANE GO... UNMOLESTED. BUT YOU'RE LIKE ALL THE REST OF YOUR BREED.
IS THIS GENTLEMAN BOTHERING U...
WAAAAAAAAAAH!
I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR HERE, BRENDAN.
YOU OWE ME.
WHAT--WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY BABY?
I PLACED A LOW-LEVEL BLOCK ON HIS EMOTIONS, TONI. HE'LL NEVER LOOK AT YOU WITH LOVE AGAIN. NOT FOR AS LONG AS HE LIVES.
YOU FRANKLY DON'T DESERVE IT.
LADIES, GENTLEMEN, OTHERS, CREATURES OF INDETERMINATE INNER DEMONS AND FIXATIONS--
MY NAME IS DR. PSYCHO.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME WITH A LITTLE EXPERIMENT.
ALL I ASK...?
"THAT YOU KEEP AN OPEN MIND."
FLIGHT ZERO THREE NINER, RUNWAY FOUR IS CLEAR FOR LANDING.

The Great Society
GAIL SIMONE: writer JOHN BYRNE: penciller LARY STUCKER & NELSON: inkers
GUY MAJOR: colorist PAT BROSSEAU: letterer JEANINE SCHAEFER: asst. editor EDDIE BERGANZA: editor
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
DAMN.
FORGOT TO REGISTER FOR MY FREQUENT FLIER MILES.
WELCOME TO METROPOLIS.
WELCOME TO METROPOLIS.
WELCOME TO METROPOLIS.
WELCOME TO METROPOLIS.
WELCOME TO METROPOLIS.
WELCOME.
WELCOME TO.
METROPOLIS.
METRO.
WELCOME TO METROPOLIS.

...EXPRESSING SHOCK AND DISMAY AT THE APPARENTLY SENSELESS DESTRUCTION OF THIS CROWDED STREET IN METROPOLIS'S FINANCIAL DISTRICT BY NONE OTHER THAN SUPERMAN. WHILE NO ARREST ORDER OR OFFICIAL STATEMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED...
SUPER SAVINGS ON SUPER STUFF
HELLO, MY GOOD MAN.
HOW'S BUSINESS?
WELL, Y'KNOW, IT'S DOWN A LITTLE BIT SINCE SUPERMAN DECIDED TO MELT DOWN PART OF DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS. YOU BUYIN' THAT MUG?
I'M CONSIDERING. IT'S GOT A GOOD HEFT TO IT, CERTAINLY.
AND DON'T WORRY.
I THINK BUSINESS WILL SOON BE PICKING UP RIGHT SMARTLY.
GUUHHRN.
WELCOME TO METROPOLIS.
MAN OF STEEL.
FASTER THAN A SPEEDING...
NUMBER ONE FAN.
SO GORGEOUS.
LOVE HIM SO MUCH I CAN'T STAND IT. CAN'T STAND IT.
SO DREEEEAMY.
WELL!
NOW YOU LOOK PERFECTLY "NORMAL," MY DEAR.
FETCH MY LUGGAGE, YOU RIDICULOUS HAG.
WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE NEW ELVIS.

Every day, I write the book.
...EXPRESSING SHOCK AND DISMAY AT THE APPARENTLY SENSELESS DESTRUCTION OF THIS CROWDED STREET IN METROPOLIS' FINANCIAL DISTRICT BY NONE OTHER THAN SUPERMAN. WHILE NO ARREST ORDER OR OFFICIAL STATEMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED...
WELL, I'VE HAD BETTER WEEKS.
The book of what it's like to be married to HIM.
THINK, CLARK...HOW MUCH DO YOU REMEMBER?
...
I REMEMBER THE RAGE.
The kindness. The strength. The sense of decency that radiates from him so intensely, it's almost VISIBLE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, LOIS. A PART OF ME KNEW I WAS LOSING CONTROL. AND THE SCARY PART IS...
...THAT PART OF ME ENJOYED IT.
CLARK.
I want the world to know what only I know about him--
How he looks when he's sleeping, how he loves blueberry pancakes, but only if the berries are fresh, not frozen...
CLARK!
HMMMM?
...and sometimes how, in my heart of hearts--
YOU'RE FLOATING.
WHAT?
OH.
--how even I still find new mysteries in him.

Because life with Superman isn't ALL blueberries and light suppers on the moon.
I'M... SORRY, LOIS. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU.
I DIDN'T REALIZE...
CLARK, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU...THE MIND CONTROL--
--IT IS OVER WITH, RIGHT?
Sometimes it's alien invasions and mad scientists and Kryptonite poisoning. Sometimes it's having honest-to-gosh demons and wizards on your enemies list.
I THINK SO. BUT LOIS--
--IF IT SHOULD EVER HAPPEN AGAIN...
And yet the only thing that REALLY scares him, the only thing that ever slows him DOWN...
PROMISE ME YOU'LL CALL THE JLA, GET SOMEPLACE SAFE. DON'T TRY TO HANDLE IT ALONE.
PROMISE ME.
...is the thought of the people he loves getting HURT.
CLARK, I PROMISE.
BUT I PROMISE FOR YOUR SAKE, NOT MINE.
And that's the kind of heroism people should KNOW about.
BECAUSE I DON'T BELIEVE--NO MATTER WHAT--
THAT YOU COULD EVER HURT ME.


People should UNDERSTAND his example.
I...
I HEAR SCREAMS. DOWNTOWN.
I HAVE TO GO.
The super-speed kisses goodbye, the snap of his cape as he takes to the air.
People should know. And every day I write the book.
Be a bestseller... never leave the charts, probably.
I KNOW.
WHATEVER HAPPENED, IT'S NO PART OF YOU. REMEMBER THAT.
GO. BE WHO YOU ARE, CLARK.
But to be honest, and more than a little selfish, I share my beautiful husband with the world ENOUGH.
And these things, these small things I cherish, and these huge fears I endure--these I'm keeping for MYSELF for a while.
BE SUPERMAN.
BRRRNG BRRRNG
So every day I write the book...
...and every night I tear it UP again.
'LO?
WHY ARE YOU STILL AT HOME, LANE?
I NEED YOU TO COVER SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE.
...AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK ME TO OPEN THE VAULT, MISTER...?
WELL, NOW, I GUESS I COULD ASK YOU TO DO THAT, SURE...

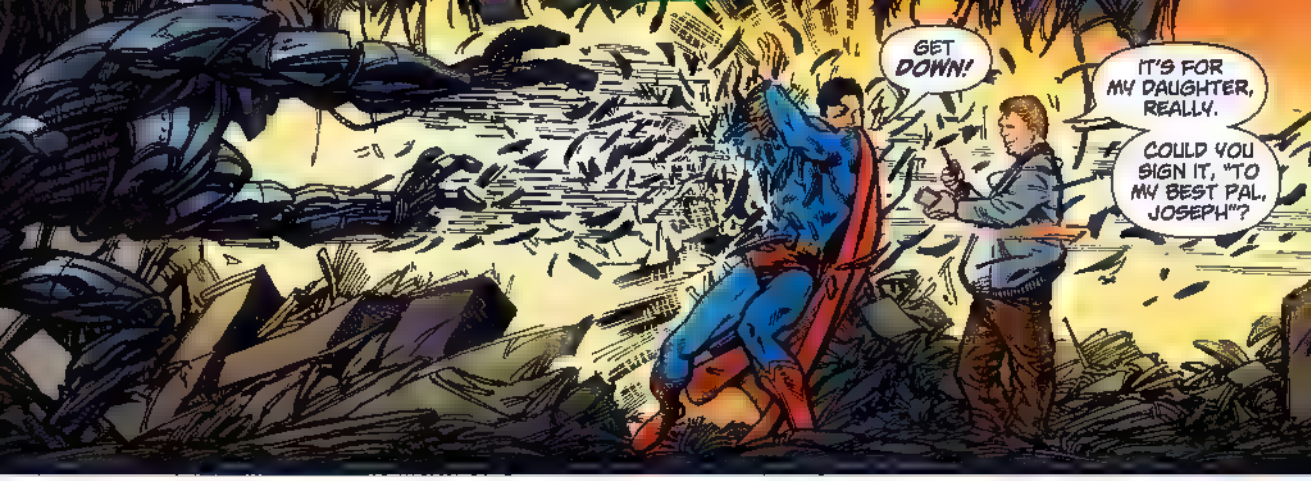
BUT WHAT I WAS ACTUALLY GONNA DO FIRST WAS ASK FER YOUR NUMBER, SO I COULD CALL YOU, MAYBE.
YOU'RE LOOKING PRETTY FINE FOR AN OLD BROAD.
'COURSE, MY STANDARDS ARE MIGHTY LOW, I'LL BE HONEST WITH YA.
RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU THINK MISS PRISS AND I GOT A REAL LOVE CONNECTION GOING...
S'WHAT I FIGURED.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, MONEY FIRST, THEN WE FOX TROT 'TIL DAWN, LADY.
AN' DON'T BOTHER WITH THE TIME LOCK MALARKEY. WE KNOW YOU GOT THE OVERRIDE CODE.
HEY, BE HONEST.
YOU THINK A CLASSY DAME LIKE YOU AND A LAWNMOWER GONE WRONG LIKE ME...
I THINK LOW SELF-ESTEEM IS CAUSING YOU TO ACT OUT IN DESTRUCTIVE WAYS, SHRAPNEL.
YOU'RE USED TO THE DOOM PATROL, SO I'LL MAKE YOU THE SAME OFFER I MAKE EVERYONE THE FIRST TIME THEY LEAVE A MESS IN MY CITY.
THE OFFER IS...
...SURRENDER. AND THE EXPIRATION DATE IS NOW.

COULD, YEAH. SURE. BUT, SEE...THE LADY AND ME...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, DOLLFACE?
GRACE.
GRACE AND ME, WE'RE ENGAGED.
SHE THINKS I'M SEXY AS ALL GETOUT, SUPERMAN. RIGHT, SWEETCHEEKS?
NOT EVERY WOMAN WANTS, YOU KNOW, GOOD LOOKS AND FLESH AND ALL THAT STUFF.
OH, AND PLUS...HER BANK'S GONNA KICK IN BIG ON THE DOWRY FUND!
SHE'S A DELICATE LITTLE THING.
I'M NOT SURE SHE'S GONNA TAKE IT WELL, YOU TRY'N TA SEPARATE US, BLUE. IT MIGHT BE LIKE A PIECE OF STEEL THROUGH HER HEART.
AND HER KIDNEYS.
HEY, WHY SO QUIET?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TRYING TO CALCULATE YOUR APPROXIMATE MELTING POINT, ACTUALLY.

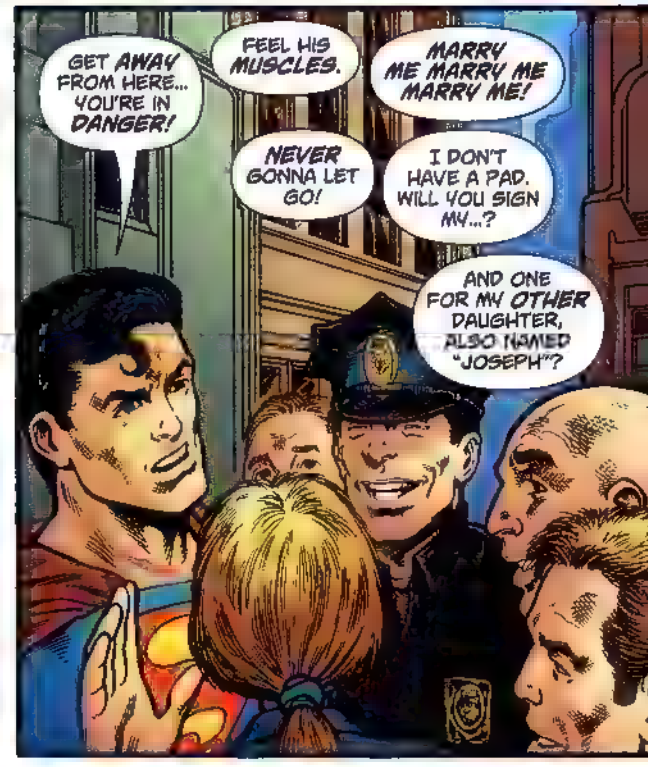
AROUND 1950 DEGREES CELSIUS, I'D SAY.
AAAAAAAAAAAAAARHH!
GIVE OR TAKE A BIT.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT!
YOUR CITY WILL PAY!

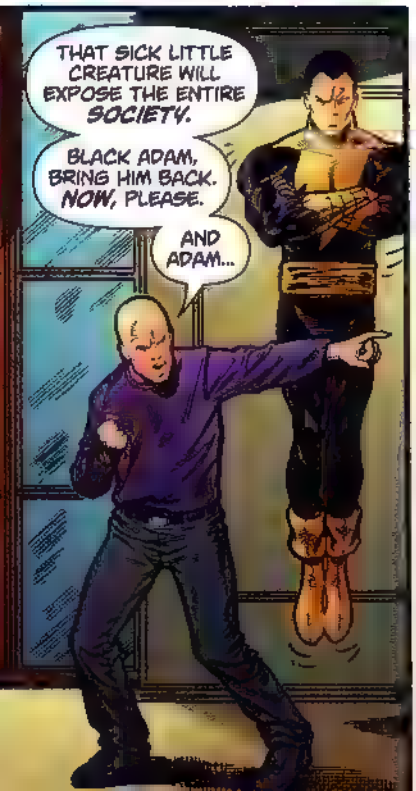
RUN.
RUN!
SO DREAMY.
NO, THINGS ARE GOING SWIMMINGLY, WHY DO YOU ASK?
THINGS ARE WELL IN GOTHAM, I TRUST?
YOU IMBECILE.
I SPECIFICALLY TOLD YOU NOT TO PUT YOURSELF IN HIS PROXIMITY. YOU WERE TO OBSERVE SUPERMAN'S CURRENT, ERRATIC BEHAVIOR ONLY. WE WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS...

LUTHOR, FRANKLY, IF I WANTED TO LOSE TO SUPERMAN, THEN YES, YOU'D BE MY GO-TO GUY.
PSYCHO. YOU ARE THERE TO BE A DISTRACTION, ONLY--NOT TO ENGAGE SUPER...
YOU KNOW WHAT THE MOST FUN PART OF ART CLASS WAS FOR ME, AS A CHILD, LUTHOR?
SEEING MY PARENTS CRY WHEN THEY SAW WHAT I HAD DRAWN. THE DEEP RED SCENARIOS--BABY-SITTERS, NEIGHBOR CHILDREN, TORMENTED AND SCREAMING ENDLESSLY...
WHAT FUN IS HAVING A CREATIVE SOUL IF YOU CAN'T MAKE INNOCENT PEOPLE WEEP?
GOODBYE, LEX.
PSY...
CLICK
EXCUSE ME, KIND SIR, I WONDER IF YOU MIGHT DO A LITTLE BROTHER A SOLID...
MAN, I HEARD METROPOLIS WAS A TOUGH TOWN FOR SINGLES.
FACE IT, SUPES. YOU'RE A PRUDE.
PLAN "B," THEN.
WHAT I DO, SEE, IS I CONCENTRATE REAL HARD, AND WILL MY SHARDS TO EXPLODE AT FULL FORCE. GO THROUGH A TANK LIKE BUTTER.
AT MAXIMUM DISPERSAL, WELL...
...I'D KISS EVERY LIVING THING WITHIN THREE BLOCKS GOODBYE.
UH...EXCUSE ME, NORMALLY I'D NEVER DO THIS..
...BUT IS THERE ANY WAY I COULD GET AN AUTOGRAPH?
WHAT IN THE WOR--


GET DOWN!
IT'S FOR MY DAUGHTER, REALLY.
COULD YOU SIGN IT, "TO MY BEST PAL, JOSEPH"?

IT'S HIM! IT'S SUPERMAN!
OOOH, CAN I TAKE A PICTURE WITH YOU?
CAN I GET A QUOTE FOR MY BLOG?
EVEN BETTER LOOKING IN PERSON!


GET AWAY FROM HERE... YOU'RE IN DANGER!
FEEL HIS MUSCLES.
MARRY ME MARRY ME MARRY ME!
NEVER GONNA LET GO!
I DON'T HAVE A PAD. WILL YOU SIGN MY...?
AND ONE FOR MY OTHER DAUGHTER, ALSO NAMED "JOSEPH"?


THAT SICK LITTLE CREATURE WILL EXPOSE THE ENTIRE SOCIETY.
BLACK ADAM, BRING HIM BACK. NOW, PLEASE.
AND ADAM...

...DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HIM.

HERE. THIS IS YOURS NOW. HIS MOTHER'S A PET OF MINE.
AND SHE'S ABOUT TO MAKE A MESS ON THE CARPET.

OH, SUPERMAN!
NO
I LOVE YOU, SUPERMAN!
FLY WITH ME!
I CAN SEE YOU'RE BUSY, BLUE.
SO, LET'S DO THIS AGAIN SOMETIME REAL SOON.
TA.
SO DREAMY.
UURGH!

I'VE GOT YOU.
KNEW IT.
KNEW YOU'D SAVE ME.
HEY, UP HERE!
OH, NO.
ALL THAT ADORATION, ALL THAT LOVE...
...I HOPE IT KILLS THE ALIEN FREAK.
NUMBER ONE FAN!
SAVE ME, SUPERMAN!
SAVE ME, TOO, SUPERMAN!
NO, SAVE ME!
IF I DIE, YOU'LL KNOW I LOVED YOU!

So Perry sent me, me of all people, to investigate all the weird events that have had Superman's name attached.
...TOL' YOU AND TOL' YOU, I DON'T REMEMBER NOTH...NG!
THEY JUST CAME UP AN' STARTED TEARING AT ME, AND TOOK ALL MY SUPERMAN STUFF!
MR. GUNZMAN, I KNOW THIS IS HARD. BUT...
I TOL' YOU!
Of course I refused, until he pulled out the all-time, hideously-unfair-but-notheless-effective, guaranteed argument-winning gambit--
MR. GUNZMAN. PHILLIPE.
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO SUPERMAN. I BELIEVE SOMEONE'S TARGETING HIM. AND THERE MAY BE A CONNECTION WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AT THE AIRPORT.
He said, "Oh, I'm sorry, Ms. Lane-- I mistook you for a reporter."
PLEASE. IF YOU CAN REMEMBER ANYTHING.
LADY, I WAS BORN IN METROPOLIS.
DO YOU THINK I'D LEAVE SUPERMAN IN THE COLD IF I...
Nothing worse than an editor who has the temerity to be right all the time.
WAIT.
THERE WAS A...A WHATTYACALL...
So, yeah, I'll be a reporter. I'll cover the story. And this I absolutely guarantee—
A LITTLE PERSON! A DWARF!
-- I'm going to find out the truth.

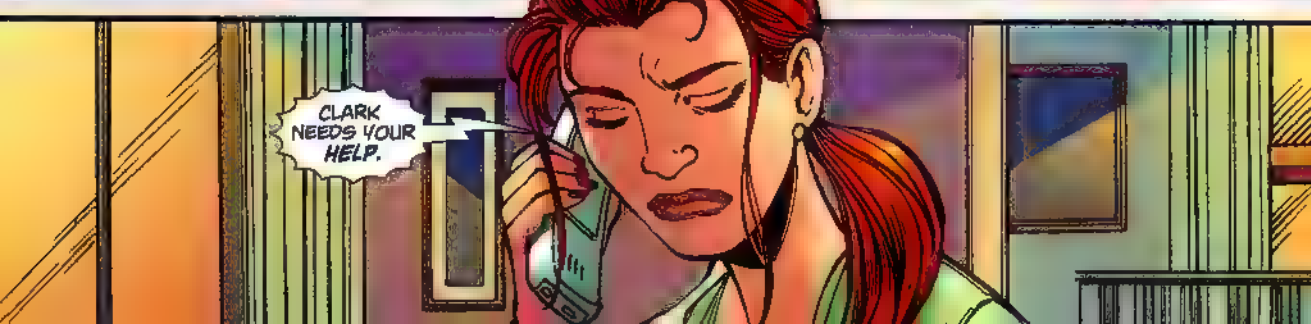
ATTACKING SUPERMAN IN HIS OWN CITY.
SOME MIGHT HYPOTHESIZE THAT YOU WANT TO BE DEFEATED.
EH?
OH. PLAYING LUTHOR'S LAP DOG, TODAY, ADAM?

WE'RE LEAVING, DOCTOR.
YOU'VE INFLICTED ENOUGH POINTLESS CRUELTY IN THESE PEOPLE'S LIVES.
YOU KNOW, ADAM...?
SOMETIMES I DON'T THINK YOUR HEART IS REALLY IN THIS, THIS SOCIETY OF VILLAINS.

SORRY TO SAY THIS, SUPERMAN...
BUT THAT METAL GUY, HE'S LONG GONE.
YOU... UH, YOU OKAY?
I NEED YOU TO WATCH THESE PEOPLE, OFFICER. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?
I HAVE AN EXPERIMENT TO CONDUCT.

JLA WATCHTOWER.
NO, LOIS. NO ONE'S SEEN DR. PSYCHO IN MONTHS. WE'VE LOST TRACK OF HIM COMPLETELY.
IS KAL ALL RIGHT? IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
NO, J'ONN. THANK YOU, BUT I THINK I KNOW WHO I HAVE TO CALL.

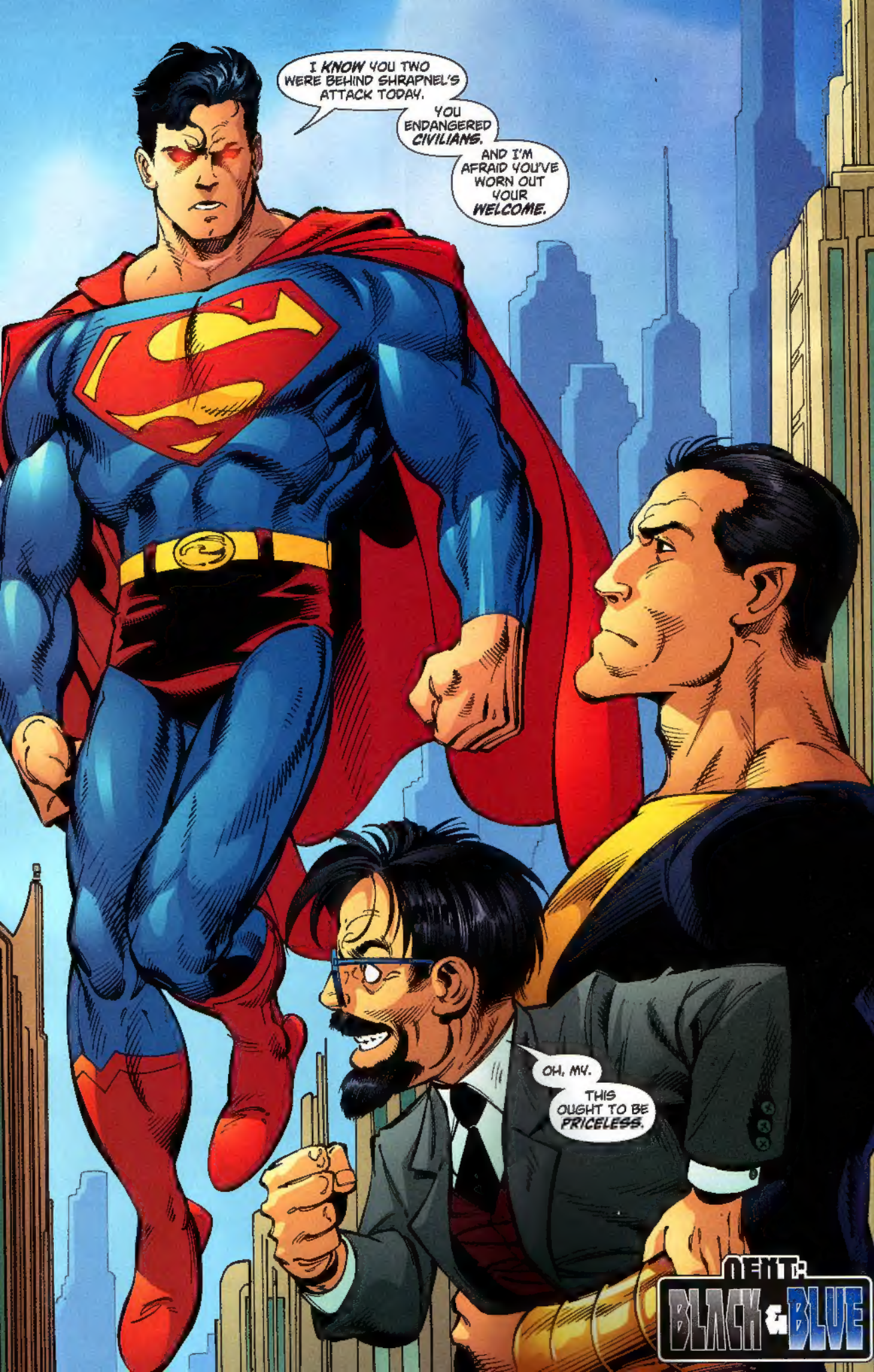
Well, no one said being a superhero's wife was easy.
Last time she and I were together--it did not GO well, to say the least.
MADAM FIRST LADY...
PLEASE DON'T CALL ME THAT ANYMORE, LOIS.
LANA, THEN.


CLARK NEEDS YOUR HELP.

ALL IN ALL, A PERFECTLY ENJOYABLE MORNING, EVES GROWING BACK AND EVERY-THING.
THE WEATHER'S ABOUT TO CHANGE FOR YOU, SHRAPNEL.
AW, YOU FOUND ME.
IT'S NOT HARD WHEN EVERY STEP YOU TAKE SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE WORKING AN ENGINE BLOCK WITH A HACKSAW.
FAIR ENOUGH. HEY, I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN ACTING A LITTLE NUTS LATELY. YOU SURE YOU'RE STILL ONE'A THE GOOD GUYS N' ALL?
I MEAN, IF YOU GO CRAY-ZAY, DO I STILL CALL YOU SUPERMAN?
I'M SURE. AND WHAT YOU WERE WILLING TO DO TODAY TO INNOCENT PEOPLE HELPED REMIND ME.
GUESS WHAT I'M HOLDING IN MY HAND?
COPPER
TUBING.
IT'S
COMFY?
WAIT. THIS IS A JOKE, RIGHT?
YOU THINK THIS CAN STOP ME FROM MAKING THIS NEIGHBORHOOD METROPOLIS'S BIGGEST MORGUE?
HOLD THAT THOUGHT... LOOKING FOR A JUNCTION.
SEE, YOU TAKE COPPER TUBING, WRAP IT AROUND A STEEL OBJECT...

...PUMP A FEW THOUSAND VOLTS THROUGH IT...
GAAAAAAAARHHAH!
...AND VOILÁ. INSTANT ELECTRO-MAGNET.
TRY EXPLODING NOW.
GOOGLLLLL ZHHHH!
THOUGHT SO.
N-N-NOT M-MMEEE
JU-JUZZZT A P-P-PAWNNZZZZ
WHAT?
T-T-TELL YOU. L-LETTT MEE GOOEZZ ANNND I'LL T-T-TELL-L YOUZZZZ

WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS, IF YOU REALLY WANTED TO DEFY THE SOCIETY AND BRING DOWN SUPERMAN, WHY NOT SIMPLY CONTROL HIS MIND?
AND TAKE OFF THOSE RIDICULOUS GLASSES.
PROFESSIONAL COURTESY.
AND THESE GLASSES MAKE ME LOOK GOOD.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "PROFESSIONAL COURTESY"?
SOMEONE'D BEEN IN HIS MIND ALREADY. AND JUST RECENTLY, TOO.
LOOK, I'M SORRY, BUT THESE BELOVED TYPES— THEY MAKE ME RETCH 'TIL LAST WEEK'S LUNCH COMES UP.
I MAY NEVER GET TO SPIT IN AN ORDAINED SAINT'S FACE, BUT TODAY WAS CLOSE.
THE TRUTH, PSYCHO?
YOU'RE NOT FIT TO TOUCH THE MAN'S CAPE. THE SKY SEEMS CLEAR. LET'S GO.
OH, MY GOD. YOU'RE JUST LIKE THE RABBLE I PLAYED WITH TODAY!
IF YOU LOVE SUPERMAN SO MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU MAR...
PSYCHO. BLACK ADAM.
DID YOU REALLY THINK I DON'T KNOW WHO FLIES OVER MY CITY AT ALL TIMES?


I KNOW YOU TWO WERE BEHIND SHRAPNEL'S ATTACK TODAY.
YOU ENDANGERED CIVILIANS.
AND I'M AFRAID YOU'VE WORN OUT YOUR WELCOME.
OH, MY.
THIS OUGHT TO BE PRICELESS.
NEXT:
BLACK & BLUE

DC TM

08.05

IN DEMAND

INFINITE CRISIS MANAGEMENT

"Judgment will be at hand."
—writer GEOFF JOHNS

This Month's Cover by...
DAN JURGENS AND KEVIN NOWLAN
COLOR BY GUY MAJOR

Next In...

Action Comics #831

Get ready for Superman vs. Black Adam – and Doctor Psycho will be there to pick up the pieces! Will the Man of Steel's fans have to step in to save him?

INFINITE CRISIS #1 (October, 2005): The superstar creative trio of **Geoff Johns**, **Phil Jimenez** and **Andy Lanning** introduces us to a DC Universe where every villain is united, the forces of magic remain unchecked, inhuman sentries watch over the populace, and galactic conflict runs rampant. Meanwhile, the world's greatest heroes — Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman — are divided over irreconcilable differences. Having built up to this landmark seven-issue miniseries for more than a year, the Countdown is officially over; INFINITE CRISIS has begun!

The Hot List THIS WEEK

JLA #117
In Part 3 of the 5-part "Crisis of Conscience," Batman has left the JLA, the Secret Society of Super-Villains has learned all the League's secrets, and Lois Lane is in danger! Will the heroes decide to mindwipe the villains to save their loved ones?

OUTSIDERS #27
It's the explosive conclusion of "Tick Tock!" Batman and the Outsiders are together again as the sins of the past force the team into a confrontation with a deadly terror that is not what it seems.

SUPERGIRL #1
Spinning out of SUPERMAN/BATMAN, it's the ongoing adventures of Superman's cousin, the one and only Kara Zor-El! The first issue guest-stars Power Girl and features alternate covers by Ian Churchill and Michael Turner!

BATMAN: YEAR 1.5?

There's a DARK MOON RISING over Gotham this November, as storyteller extraordinaire **Matt Wagner** (TRINITY) produces two six-issue miniseries that focus on an essential part of Batman's past. Titled BATMAN AND THE MONSTER MEN and BATMAN AND THE MAD MONK, respectively, the two miniseries are separated by a three-month gap but are tied closely together. With Jim Gordon, Hugo Strange, Julie Madison, and a slew of Bat-enemies on hand, Matt, who writes and draws both series, describes this massive undertaking as his "Batman: Year 1.5," and promises plenty of surprises. Hey, sounds good to us!

COLD STEEL-WORKER

We've mentioned JLA: COLD STEEL here on several occasions, and with good reason: it looks incredible. **Chris Moeller** (JLA: A LEAGUE OF ONE) has spent years ironing out the intricate elements of this breathtaking Prestige format miniseries (now renamed JLA CLASSIFIED: COLD STEEL), writing and fully painting the World's Greatest Super-Heroes in a way you've never imagined. Seeing the JLA break out the heavy artillery to halt an intergalactic war is not to be missed, so we strongly recommend you gear up for two hard-hitting issues starting in December!

DOING MORE HARD TIME

When writer **Steve Gerber** and artists **Brian Hurtt** and **Steve Bird** serve another spell of HARD TIME this January, they'll be joined by co-writer **Mary Skrenes** (*Omega the Unknown*). In this "second season" of the critically acclaimed series, the foursome will flesh out the past of several of State Penitentiary's worst and launch a new legal effort to help the prison's youngest inmate, Ethan Harrow. Unfortunately, while Ethan deals with life on the inside and learns how to control his power, the jail's latest resident will have a disturbingly negative influence in the young man's life. We suspect HARD TIME: SEASON TWO will take no prisoners in 2006!

A SPIRITED TEAM-UP

This December offers up a unique collaboration, creatively and storywise, when writer **Jeph Loeb** (SUPERGIRL) and artist **Darwyn Cooke** (NEW FRONTIER) chronicle the first and only meeting between Gotham's Dark Knight and Central City's masked guardian! BATMAN/THE SPIRIT is a 48-page one-shot that pairs the two heroes when murder attends a criminologist convention. Also featuring Commissioners Gordon and Dolan, trusty aides Robin and Ebony, and femmes fatales Catwoman and P'Gell, consider this a great opportunity to immerse yourself not only in the shadow of the Bat, but in Will Eisner's classic characters, especially since Darwyn is the artist and writer for the new SPIRIT ongoing series that debuts in early 2006!

—your MOLE at 1700

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